



Communicator

Glædelig Jul • Merry Christmas • Joyeux Noël • Bada Din Mubarak Ho • Froeliche Weihnachten

December 2011

2011 Year in Photos	Plus Meeting Minutes
Radio-Active Kelvin Hall VA7KPH	Snapshot
Application Notes Fall Basic Class	President's Report
Contesting	SEPARS Report
	QRM

ve7sar.net



Amateur Radio

A better experience for some than for others
See page 16

The Monthly Newsletter of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club



The Communicator



**SURREY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

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VIA THE WEB

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The SARC Communicator is published monthly for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news and other information.

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November Meeting Minutes

Susan Eshelman VE7IIE—SARC Secretary

Minutes of SARC meeting of Nov 9th 2011.

The meeting was called to order by John VA7XB, President, at 7:02pm. In attendance were 32 members and guests.

The agenda was presented and accepted, with no additional items requested.

John, VA7XB, introduced visitors, guests and old time members.

Business portion of meeting

Minutes of the Oct 12th 2011 meeting were adopted as presented in the Communicator.

Scott VE7HA, Treasurer, gave a financial report. It was acknowledgement that the ING account is designated as a repeater and future clubhouse fund.

Scott VE7HA asked for persons who ordered badges to come forward and claim them. It was suggested that in future badges will have to be paid for at time of ordering.

Members were also reminded that annual dues are payable immediately. The membership list

must be finalized before the RAC insurance premium is paid at month's end. Bill VA7ZBL reported that we have 110 on the membership list, of which only half are paid up for 2011/2012.

Bill VA7ZBL and Jinty VA7JMR reported on organization of the Christmas party.

Venue is to be the ABC restaurant at 2106 King George Blvd (note: not the same location as previous years. Dec 10th 2011 at 11 am - 2 pm. SARC members and guests \$20 each and Non SARC members and guests \$25. There will be a 50/50 draw, Amateur- of- the-Year award, and a 2011Field Day video.

Bill VA7ZBL informed members of the D-Star QSO party sponsored by ICOM on Nov 11 to 13th

John VA7XB called for volunteers for the Santa Claus parade; those interested should contact Ken Clarke VE7BC.

Fred VE7IO reported on the "operator skills development" program in connection with the recent CQWDX contest.

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2011-2012

PRESIDENT

John Brodie VA7XB

VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Gipps VE7XS

SECRETARY

Susan Eshelman VE7IIE

TREASURER

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA

DIRECTORS

Kelvin Hall VA7KPH
(SEPARS)

John Schouten VE7TI
(Communicator Editor)

Gary Skett VE7AS
(Education/Training)

George Merchant
VE7QH (Repeaters)

Bill Little VA7ZBL
(Membership)

Chris Zetner VA7CMZ

SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, (optional Tone Squelch 110.9) also accessible on IRLP node 1980 and Echo-link node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 Coming soon, a repeater at 224.000MHz (-1.6MHz).

	SEPARS Net	SARC Net
1 st Tuesday	Drew VA7DRW Jay VE7OFH Standby	Drew VA7DRW
2 nd Tuesday	Dixie VA7DIX Alan VA7BIT Standby	Alan VA7BIT
3 rd Tuesday	Rob VE7CZV	John VA7XB
4 th Tuesday	Bill VE7XS Dixie VA7DIX Standby	Anton VE7SSD
5 th Tuesday	Jinty VA7JMR	Bill VE7XS
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the Net Manager ve7ti@separs.net		

Certificates were presented to participants. Jim VE7FO, demonstrated the features of the DX Atlas program and how it can be used in contesting. He also displayed the location of countries worked in the recent SSB contest on all continents except Antarctica.

Kjeld VE7GP, in reference to the presentation at last month's meeting, stressed the simplicity of PSK31 as a digital mode and displayed different interfaces, both home brewed and commercial.

Kelvin VA7KPH updated SEPAR activities including the progress being made with the installation of the repeaters atop the Concord building in Surrey and the acquisition of two new HQ antennas for the Go kits.

The primary topic for the meeting was an Interactive Panel Question-and-Answer Session .

Gary Skett VE7AS introduced the expert panel:

Jim VE7FO, Fred VE7IO, Eric VE7MDL, Kelvin VA7KPH, and John VA7XB.

Each in turn gave a brief self-introduction ... how they got involved in ham radio and what aspects of the hobby represent their main interest. Some panel members described what projects they are currently working on and reminisced on some memorable moments in their ham careers. What followed was a varied array of questions from the audience, drawing upon the collective experience of the panel.

The 50/50 draw was won by Bhim Sen Nair.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.

Solder Smoke

Just a reminder about the Club's new Kit Building Project for 2012. We are prepared to give SARC members who build a Ham radio [or related] kit up to \$50 toward their finished/working project.

Conditions:

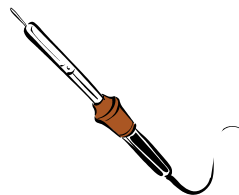
1. Just to make sure it fits within the general guidelines of the program, the kit has to be approved by Gary VE7AS before purchase to qualify for the cash reimbursement.
2. Up to \$50 will be awarded upon successful completion of their [working] project and a demonstration (see #4)
3. They must build it themselves at home or at one of our club-based workshops
4. They must be prepared to give a short talk about their kit, and demonstrate how it's used in their ham shack, home or vehicle.

This program is, at present, strictly for the 2012 season for SARC members in good standing only.

Have an idea? Google Ham Radio kits, or Amateur Radio kits and a hundred sites come up. I have built a lot of kits over the last 45 years, a lot from the top ten suppliers like Canakit, Ramsey, Vellamen, and just about every Ham radio kit Heathkit every made, and my next one will be the new QRP rig from Elecraft... so I can certainly guide whomever toward the better kits.

We will have a "How to Solder" night sometime during 2012 with hints and tips, date TBA, see the January Communicator.

~ Gary VE7AS



Last Call For The SARC Christmas Party

Here is your party invitation! Please note that due to increased membership we have moved to another ABC Restaurant, 2160 King George Hwy, White Rock.

We need to confirm numbers so please email jinty.reid@gmail.com ASAP. You may also receive a phone call from Jinty to ensure we have space available. Payment will be made at the door.

Thanks and looking forward to seeing you on December 10th

DOWN THE LOG...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wednesday (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs local at the Emergency Management BC PREOC,
14275 96th Avenue, Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0830 hrs
ABC Country Restaurant at
600 - 7380 King George Blvd.
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hrs local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 hrs local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

Announcements & News

Next SARC Meeting
Second Wed. Jan 11th 1900 @ PEP
PREOC, 14275 - 96th Avenue,
Surrey

SEPARS Monthly Workshop
Third Thursday, Dec 15th., 1900-
2130hrs at Rm. 214, 13569 - 76th
Avenue, Surrey.

SEPARS Training
Fourth Saturday, 0830 hrs, Firehall
#1, 88 & 132nd Street
No Saturday workshop in Decem-
ber.

On the Web ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements may also be found on our web page.

Twitter
[@ve7sar](https://twitter.com/ve7sar)



SEPARS Report Kelvin Hall VA7KPH

SEPAR Year in Review

2011 was a year of change for SEPAR. At the AGM in April, Fred Orsetti VE7IO, stepped down from the President/Coordinator position which he held for many years. Fred has been with SEPAR for the better part of 17 years and has made significant contributions of his time to bring SEPAR to its respected place in the Surrey Emergency Program. Fred had a number of dreams for SEPAR and has accomplished all of them, including the latest purchase of the Mobile Command Post trailer. Fred will remain with SEPAR as a member at large and has advised us that he is willing to share his vast experience and knowledge when needed. Fred is not gone, just enjoying retirement.

During the year SEPAR made a number of hardware acquisitions including Communication Vests, four 220 MHz radios plus the antennas for the Grab and Go Kits, BC Warn hardware for the soon to be new system and three Hi Q 5-160 antennas for the Grab and Go Kits. Hopefully some of this hardware will be demonstrated in the Communication Trailer once it is outfitted inside.

During the year there were demonstration projects at the Beaver Creek and Pacific Heights schools and the Newton and Fleetwood libraries thanks to the coordinating efforts of Marcy Lui, VE7JT and Fred Orsetti, VE7IO and the too many to name SEPAR members that took positions at each of the posts.

Official exercises took place with Emergency Social Services (ESS) and the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). At the ESS exercise in the Fleetwood Community Centre SEPAR demonstrated that we serve as a vital communication link for Reception Centres to the outside world and the EOC. At the EOC exercise with the Surrey Fire Department SEPAR again demonstrated that we are fully capable of handling 'traffic' between the EOC and the Incident Command Posts. Fire Hall #1, as the main radio room, linked with the Grab and Go Kit at Fire Hall #10 and

the EOC room to demonstrate the effectiveness and efficiency in the Tx and Rx of messages.

Public events at Field Day, Canada Day and CN Rail Family Days provided further interaction with the general public. From these events we were able to answer what ham radio was about and we did get a couple of new hams from the discussions.

The Volunteer Recognition Dinner, sponsored by the City of Surrey, and hosted by the Surrey Emergency Program under the Surrey Fire Department was well attended by SEPAR members. Fred Orsetti, VE7IO received a Certificate of Recognition from the Surrey Emergency Program for his years of service and contribution to the program. It was a good evening of socializing with the ESS group and Surrey Search and Rescue.



The upcoming SARC SEPAR Christmas dinner on December 10, 2011 will officially close the year.

Thank you to all of the SEPAR members that put in so much of their precious time to participate in the community events. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family. Be safe over the holidays.



SEPAR meets every third Thursday evening from 1900 - 2130 hrs at 13569 76th Street Surrey V3W 2W3 and every fourth Saturday morning at Fire hall #1 from 0900 -1200 hrs.



More information will follow by separate cover. SEPAR is always looking for new members to assist the community in times of emergency situations. SEPAR offers training in the Incident Command System (ICS), the use of radios during emergencies and the integration of SEPAR in the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). If you are up to the challenge please contact me at va7kph@separs.net

Please join our Tuesday night net 1930 hrs on 147.360(+) tone 110.9



Radio-Active Susan Eshelman VE7IIE

It's my pleasure to introduce a man who's covering a lot of ground these days on the Surrey Amateur Radio scene - Kelvin Hall VA7KPH. After getting his Basic ham license in April 2009, Kelvin quickly stepped up to assist both SARC and SEPARS, and currently serves on the Board of both organizations.

Kelvin's interest in Amateur Radio was a natural outgrowth of his career. For the last 30 years, he's served as a professional in the Emergency Response field, working for the Federal government in Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development. Spending his first five years up in Hazelton, B.C., Kelvin has been headquartered here in the Lower Mainland for the last 25 years.

With a territory that encompasses the entire Province of British Columbia, Kelvin's job keeps him traveling a good portion of the year, particularly during fire season. And his job description is almost as broad as the region he's responsible for.

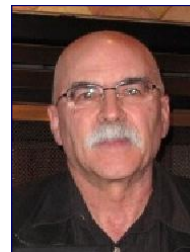
As Manager of Operations, VA7KPH deals with all aspects of Emergency Response for the province. Working in conjunction with the BC Emergency Management program and their provincial and regional emergency operations centers (PREOC's), Kelvin is well versed not only on fires and floods, but with the gamut of emergency situations. In fact, he can rattle off the entire government list of all 57 types of emergencies, from earthquakes to tsunamis, chemical, biological, and even nuclear events. Needless to say, ham radio would serve as a fundamental tool in every one of the emergency scenarios on that list.

Kelvin currently serves on the SARC Executive as Director in charge of the club's SEPAP relationship. And, he's currently the President of SEPARS (the society) and the Coordinator for SEPAP, the functional em-comm service.

While SARC and SEPAP enjoy a close and symbiotic relationship, Kelvin suggests that the hobby aspect of Amateur Radio marks the main point of differentiation between the two groups. SEPARS builds upon the training ham operators get as part of SARC's focus, while SARC builds upon the training SEPAP offers on the emergency comm side.

Kelvin appears to have the perfect job for taking advantage of this SARC/SEPAP convergence. His efforts on behalf of the Federal government have certainly gained focus and depth thanks to the SEPAP experience. In one program, which has been a work in progress for the last year and a half, Kelvin has been working to establish

an emergency communications network that will serve the many small, often remote communities spread throughout the province. Working with both First Nations and non-Nation communities, he's championing an effort to establish an em-comm infrastructure that will collectively serve all communities.



While SEPAP activities dominate much of Kelvin's attention in Amateur Radio at the moment, he also manages to find time to just enjoy the hobby. As of this month, VA7KPH can now hang his new 'Advanced' certificate on the wall, having just passed the Fall course. While Kelvin says his last experience with technical studies was Physics 12 way back in the mid-60's, he credits the excellent instructors at Delta ARC with his success in getting an Advanced ticket... that, and 40 hours of pouring over the textbooks.

Meanwhile, he was happy to recently attend 'grad night' with Gary Skett VE7AS's latest Basic ham class. Kelvin was one of several to make presentations to the new hams, four of whom attended a SEPAP presentation a few days later, to explore growing their new hobby into the em-comm field.

Kelvin continues to work on his CW skills, and with retirement moving into the foreground of life, he's looking forward to getting involved with contesting, as well. From his home base here in Surrey, Kelvin is currently working off a Chameleon V1 for HF, and one of VE7AS's J-poles for VHF. He taps into the local Nets most Tuesday nights when he's not traveling, and while out of town he usually tries to come in through IRLP, with mixed success.

Lying on the ground in his backyard (probably right overtop his wife Judy's flowerbeds) is a 50 foot tower system that Kelvin looks forward to erecting in the Spring. Happy with his current iCom HF radio, getting the tower up with a TH6 on top will satisfy his current hamshack 'dream list'. (It's too bad Santa doesn't do tower installs...)

Kelvin is inspired not only by Amateur Radio technology, but especially by the members of SARC and SEPAP he's had the pleasure of getting to know. Their knowledge and willingness to share time and expertise coupled with his own curiosity make ham radio a continually satisfying experience. As Kelvin puts it, "Ham's not a selfish hobby", and he points to members like VA7XB and VE7IO, who have helped him and so many others to take advantage of all that Amateur Radio has to offer.

This Month's Feature

The SARC Year In Photos



...More Club News

TIME HAS RUN OUT FOR PAYMENT OF CLUB DUES

SARC bylaws require that annual dues must be paid within three months of the end of the fiscal year. That 3-month window ran out on August 31st, but traditionally the club has extended the period of grace into the Fall months.

Several notices have been sent by email, notice has appeared in the Communicator, and it has been announced on the club net for several weeks that 2011/2012 membership dues must be paid by November 25th, so that we can get our application for RAC insurance in by the deadline of Dec. 1st.

What we pay for insurance depends on the number of members on the roster. Time has now run out and if you are one of these former members in arrears, you are now looking at your last copy of the Communicator.

REQUEST FOR DONATIONS OF HF, VHF and UHF RADIOS to DESERVING NEW MEMBERS

In the last couple of years, SARC and SEPARS have acquired many members who are recent graduates of the ham licensing class or are otherwise new to amateur radio. Some of these members have not yet acquired a radio because they are uncertain about what to buy, or else have budget limitations. On the other hand, some of our more senior members may have replaced their older radios with newer, more fully-featured, radios and might be willing to donate their older models to those who would put them to good use.

To fulfill that objective, we are asking for donations of HF, VHF and UHF transceivers. They can be old but should be in working order. The criteria for receiving a donation would be that:

1. You are a licensed amateur
2. You have been an SARC or SEPARS member for at least a year and have demonstrated an interest in club activities, especially volunteering, and
3. You apply by email to the Club executive requesting a radio by providing a short statement on how the radio will be used.

If after acquiring a donated radio, you require assistance to use or operate, then the SARC Executive will then pair you up with a more experienced member who can assist with programming, use and installation including antenna and power requirements. The number of actual donations will, naturally, be limited by what is available. If you are willing to donate a radio, or need a radio and meet the foregoing criteria, please get in touch with John VA7XB at va7xb@rac.ca or Kelvin VA7KPH va7kph@shaw.ca.

BC QP CONTEST

You may have heard from Bill Gipps that Orca DX and Contest Club has taken on the BCQP.

I am contacting amateur radio groups throughout BC with an enthusiastic invitation to join Orca DXCC in this annual event to promote on-air activity in our great province.

The most important thing to know is the date and time of the 2012 event: February 4, local time, 8am to 8pm. (1600z Feb 4 to 0400z Feb 5)

Other details, including rules, exchange and multipliers, are posted on the BCQP pages of the Orca DXCC website. Visit orcadxcc.org/bcqp.html.

While the sponsor is new, the objective remains the same. BC stations can work anyone anywhere, and stations outside BC have to work VE7/VA7s.

Because of the BC focus, the participation of operators in BC is crucial to the success of this event.

I realize that contesting is not everyone's cup of tea, and that even among testers, QSO parties are often overlooked as not competitive enough but the casual and friendly atmosphere of the BCQP presents certain advantages that the high-stakes contests cannot.

- The slower pace allows newcomers to ease into the world of contesting and try out contesting strategies without irritating operators who are only interested in a high score. This is great practice for Field Day or a RAC contest.
- It's great for practicing different modes without the pressure of an impatient pileup and for acquiring familiarity with new logging software or remote operations.
- It's an excellent opportunity to hone operating and elmering skills.
- In addition, the QSO party format is more relaxed, allowing for a bit of chit-chat along with the exchange for people who don't particularly like contests. The BCQP can be a really fun event, and the more participation there is, the more fun it will be.

As an aside, I ran with the previous sponsor's callsign last year and made 400 Qs in 12 hours -- not bad for a QSO party, in contesting terms -- plus I had some nice chats with operators in other QSO parties and attracted some surprise DX (South Africa, Brazil and Antarctica!!). The day was much more enjoyable than I thought it would be.

I hope members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club will join Orca DXCC in BCQP 2012. We'll have a whale of a good time. ~ Rebecca VA7BEC



Application Notes Gary Skett VE7AS

Back to the tech articles next month.—Ed.

Please make note of the New Ham Seminar December 3rd from 0900 to 1500 on the second floor of Fire Hall 9 at [14901 64th Avenue, Surrey](#) ([click the address for a map](#)). Park in the parking lot only on the west side, near the front entrance. We will have Arthur or Nicole by the door to let you in and show you where to go.

We plan to have limited refreshments and nibbles available, thanks to the SARC, as lunch facilities are not conveniently near by. You may wish to bring additional liquids and snack foods for the day.

Bill Dick from Fleetwood Digital Products will be there to talk about, display and sell his product line of Chinese handhelds and DVM/DMM (digital multi meters) as well as his computer services for Hams who need a new computer to go with your new HF digital radio system...

The day will consist of the following discussions with a PowerPoint presentation for each:

- What do I do now? A talk on on the modes and areas of interest in the hobby.
- What do all the knobs, buttons, dials and switches do? We look at a typical front panel of an HF radio or 3 and I go through what everything does.
- The Who, What, Where, When and How to set up your first station. What goes into a starter Station, who to buy it from, etc.
- Antennas for all locations and budgets... A talk about antennas.

- Rigs & Gear... A talk about HF transceivers and VHF/UHF transceivers. Bill will talk about his goodies.
- The digital modes, D-start, Echo Link and IRLP -- Hopefully with demonstrations... if we can get any RF out of the building and have internet access in that training room.
- Where to look on the Internet for everything "HAM" -- Made easier if we have an internet connection.

And to end the day, we can talk about anything else you and I can think of relating to Ham Radio.

Maybe someone will come in with their grab and go kit to show it off... maybe someone will bring their Mobile HF set-up for a parking lot demo during the lunch break?

We might also have some club members by to show and tell some gear or antennas? We don't really know, it's always a surprise and delight when others drop by during the day... We are hoping for a visit from the RAC representative, Bill Gipps with 18 copies of the latest TCA Magazine for you to take home.

Unfortunately because we have been bumped from our training room next door, to a room half the size, we had to drop the rest of the vendors and other displays and a live HF station set-up.

If you have received your flyer from Radioworld, bring that with you. Plus your flash drive/memory stick. Pen and notepad is always a good idea.

Looking forward to seeing you all there...

So I just want to wish everyone a most Merry Christmas, Prosperous New Year and Good DX .



Gary (kneeling) has taught basic licensing courses since 1974 and has enabled about 150 people to obtain their Ham license over the last 4 years in an intense 9-week evening course sponsored by SARC . The fall class represented a very interesting and diverse group of people and keen new Hams... On December 3rd they all meet again for Gary's New Ham Seminar where he will fill in what could not be covered during the classes and supply the necessary information to enable these new Hams to go forth and set up their own station and get on the air.

83% of the class passed with honours. 4 individuals got 100% on their exam!



REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN FOR WINTER AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING CLASSES

Jan. 19 to Mar. 15, 2012 at

Central Fire Training Facility

located behind and 100m to the east of
Surrey Fire Hall No. 9 at 14901 64th Avenue, Surrey

**THE COURSE WILL BE GIVEN OVER 9 WEEKS
THURSDAYS FROM 6:30 TO 9:30 PM**

INCLUDES:

- **8 weeks of lectures, demonstrations & coaching**
- **Industry Canada Exam on 9th week**
- **Study Guide**
- **Beginner's Seminar on March 24th**
- **Membership in Surrey Amateur Radio Club**

COURSE FEE: \$120, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

to Surrey Amateur Radio Club

12160 Boundary Dr. S., Surrey, BC V3X 2B7

For further information or to register for course, contact:

ve7as@rac.ca



SARC Contesting CQWDX SSB Contest Preparation

Well, it's over. Totally excellent fun!

PREPARATION

This event took an amazing amount of work to prepare for, but I believe we pulled it off very well and we're very happy with the results. The next one will be a lot easier.

John VA7XB, did a lot of agricultural work so that the seed of the idea of members turning out for operator training would fall on receptive ground. How much fertilizer did he use? I'm not going to go there.

Fred VE7IO opened his station for our use and revamped it to make it possible for the use of 2 radios at the same time. This required getting rid of all the junk on his office desk. Installed radios for the second op position. Added an 80m dipole up 100 ft to enhance the station low-band long distance (DX) capability. Totally changed his antenna switching system so that any antenna could be accessed by either op position and generated an op schedule.

Jim VE7FO, prepped and delivered a training session on logging SSB contacts on N1MM which included materials such that the trainees could practice at home - no radio required - before attending the actual operating event. Designed the new VE7IO antenna switching system. Developed a Briefing Package and the plan for mentoring ops in the fine art of Search & Pounce and Running.

This doesn't sound like much but it took us many full-time days. VE7IO and VE7FO shared the mentoring duties during the event.

THE PLAN

The purpose of the classroom style logging training was to enable trainees to get in some logging practice ahead of time so that they could more quickly develop the confidence to operate in Run Mode.

The plan for the event itself was for the mentor to:-

- Take the trainee through the Briefing Package.
- Listen to actual contest QSOs taking place on the radio when going through the Running and S&P procedures.
- Start the trainee making a few S&P contacts.
- Just to get her comfortable while the practice she did at home kicks in.
- Mentor to make a couple first.
- Then get her into Run mode.
- Mentor to make a couple first.
- The Mentor to provide reassurance and guidance as required.

RUNNING

A step-by-step guide to making contacts in Run Mode. Arranged in such a way as to make what the op needs to say at each step in the QSO very prominent while still providing basic info as to what's going on and how to log the QSO.

SEARCHING & POUNCING

Same idea as the Running info.

I messed-up! Now what?

It's quite easy to make an error when entering the log info. If you catch it as you make it it's easy to fix. The further you are through the QSO the harder it gets. This section shows how to deal with each case.

Things the op needs to do before actually operating.

- Band map
- Intro to packet cluster spots.
- What it shows the op.
- How to rapidly go to the frequency of a spotted station in order to work him.
- How to use the spot colours to determine which ones to work first.
- Phonetic Alphabets

Yes, that's plural. The ISO (I think) standard phonetic alphabet pretty much sucks when signals are weak and interference is strong. Three alternative lists are provided along with the standard. However, it is recommended to only use the alternatives when the standard alphabet doesn't work. (Don't want the EMCOMM folks to get into bad habits.)

- Contest Rules

A copy of the official rules.

- Antenna Switching Diagram

This shouldn't have been in the package as the ops are required to ask the Station Manager for permission to change antennas and it is the Station Manager's responsibility to change the switches to suit if he agrees that it would be a good thing to do.

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED

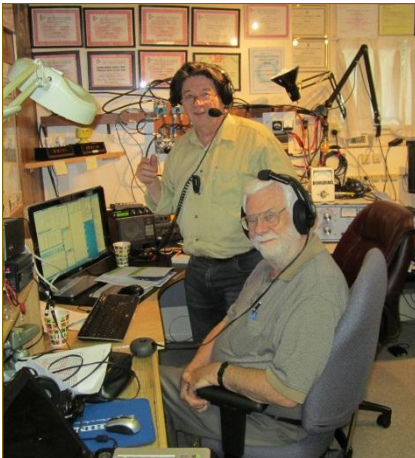
LOGGING PRACTICE AT HOME

I meant to ask each one at the start of the event whether or not they had been able to but I forgot. In any event, it looked to me as if most either didn't get the opportunity to do it or the practice methodology I proposed didn't work nearly as well as I thought it would. I would be interested in hearing from anyone who did get some practice time in how much time they put into it and whether or not it helped.

THE EVENT

All my planning was based on the idea that I would mentor Fri evening and Sat from 6 am until 5 pm, when I would go home, and Sun from 9 am to the end and that VE7IO would mentor during the remaining time.

Well, I totally overlooked the fact that, because we had two op positions, we could have two ops starting at the same time. Sure enough, right at the beginning of the event (1700L Fri) we had two ops show up on schedule and I hadn't put any thought into how I should deal with this. I tried several approaches but only recall trying to have one log while the other operated.



So, a rather rough start and I apologize to the two who had to suffer through this. Still, as I recall, once they got going on their own op positions things got better for them. They did very well at working some pretty exotic DX. Between them they worked Israel, China, Gambia, Madeira Islands, the Azores,

Cape Verde, Philippines, South Cook Islands, Korea, Japan, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Aruba, Curacao, European Russia, Asiatic Russia, Kazakhstan, Antigua & Barbuda, Australia, Indonesia, Ascension Is, New Zealand, East Malaysia, Portugal, Germany, Spain, Ireland, France, Scotland, Italy, US Virgin Islands and Namibia. Not bad for 5 hours of op time.

After that I only had one op to deal with at a time and things went much more smoothly.

Two of our ops who were to occupy the time from 9 am to the end at 5 pm were unfortunately unable to make it and I ended up with no one to mentor from noon to the end.

I thought I'd use the time to create some .wav files of the CQ, Exchange and Thank You messages. N1MM can be set

up to play these files at the appropriate times when you hit Enter. This greatly reduces the strain on the op's voice. Due to my unfamiliarity with the Micro-Ham interface between the computer and radio I was unable to get this to work so Fred and I spent the rest of the time discussing how things went and what we might change for the next time.

OBSERVATIONS

I was a little disappointed that very few ops actually got into Run mode. After all, that was the point of the training session. Still, I think everybody enjoyed the experience so I'm hoping they'll all be back for the next one (and most of them ready to get into Run mode after the first half hour or so).

The high bands were in terrific shape. Best I've heard them in many years.

We tried to publish our score very frequently to the Getscores web site so that members could follow our progress. Unfortunately, the site crashed 2 minutes after the start of the contest and stayed that way.

We didn't make my goal of 1,000 QSOs. I'm sure we would have if we'd been able to get most people into Run mode.

HOW DID WE DO?

QSOs

We made 526 QSOs. This translates into 1259 QSO points.

MULTIPLIERS

We contacted 138 countries (you can count a country once for every band you work it on - our unique country total was 73)

We contacted 98 CQ Zones

Total multipliers = 236

SCORE

1259 QSO points X 236 Multipliers = 297,124

Details are on the SAR Op Training Yahoo Group

WHAT CHANGES WOULD I MAKE?

Very few. Some tweaking of the Briefing Package. More emphasis on getting ops into Run Mode. Don't schedule 2 newbies for the same time slot unless 2 mentors are available.

WOULD I DO IT AGAIN?

You better believe it!

~ Jim Smith, VE7FO

Contesting (continued)

I would like to thank all those who participated and made the weekend fun and successful. Jim has completely covered the training program and results in his excellent report so I will just add a few words from my viewpoint

Why do we do radio contesting?

- improve individual on air operating skills (self improvement and personal satisfaction)
- provide a hands on learning environment for amateur radio
- become proficient in using the logging software N1MM
- peer recognition
- HAVE FUN

Getting the station contest ready

- The station should be comfortable
- All controls should be within easy reach
- Operators must be familiar with the operation of the equipment
- Good antennas are very important
- Maximize antenna switching for both radios
- Proper lighting
- A generous supply of coffee

What next?

- Continue with the same trainees to the next level
- Progress to a running mode of operation
- Ensure enough mentors for each new operator (minimum of 3 for a 48 hour contest)
- Expand the training to include contest ethics
- Invite other operators to observe (one at a time)

Jim asked "Would I do it again?" and he clearly indicates that he would and I can echo that comment. For me it was a first in providing a multi operator multi radio station and while we did have some small hiccups it went very well. I would like to focus on the same group of operators as they are ready to move to the next level and then we can begin to add to the roster of contest trainees. Following this structure will ensure that each interested operator will become more proficient at contesting, DXing and generally get more fun out of this wonderful hobby. These skills will obviously be very useful in an EMCOMM environment.

Thanks again to all who made this project successful and please feel free to provide feedback to your organizers as this is one way we will be able to improve the overall program.

~ Fred VE7IO

Delta Advanced Course

Getting an amateur radio license is a great achievement that takes a lot of work. To take the next step to obtain the "advanced" credential is an even bigger step, higher challenge, and achievement. The breadth of technical studies are broad, and the aspiring ham must work hard, be very self disciplined and goal oriented, and have a learning attitude.

The students of the first Advanced class at DARS demonstrated all these characteristics, and on Saturday

19-Nov there were many happy (and relieved) faces when the exam was over, and the results in, as 80% of those writing passed on their first attempt.

Congratulations to Kelvin VA7KPH and Jay VE7OFH of SARC to not only achieved their goals, but also helped us build a strong basis to offer Advanced classes in the future through their questions and suggestions.

The guys did a great job, and I personally enjoyed getting to know them.

~ Don Middleton, VA7IQ

It is with great sadness that we report of the death of Leon, one of Bonnie and Bill Little's (VA7ZBL) sons on Friday, November 25th after a long illness. Leon was one of Bill's five children, several of whom have attended SARC events, including last year's Christmas party. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Bill and his family.



News You Can Lose The Lighter Side

'Twas the night before Christmas



and all through 2 meters, not a signal was keying up any repeaters.

The antennas reached up from the tower, quite high, to catch the weak signals that bounced from the sky.

The children, all licensed, took their H-Ts to bed, and dreamed of the day they'd be 'Advanced' instead.

Mom put on her headphones, I plugged in the key, and we tuned 40 meters for that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged by a signal with power it smoked a small diode and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones, and with all she could muster, logged a spot of the signal on the DX packet cluster.

So I ran to the window and peered up at the sky, to see what could generate RF that high.

It was way in the distance, but the moon made it gleam. A flying sleigh, with an eight-element beam.

And a little old driver who looked slightly mean. so I thought for a moment, that it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa, the Santa of Hams. On a mission, this Christmas, To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower, then stopped in his track, and he slid down the coax, right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid behind stacks of CQ, this Santa of hamming knew just what to do.

He cleared the shack desk of paper and parts, and filled out all my late QSLs for a start.

He ran copper braid, took a steel rod and pounded, so the station was properly grounded.

He tightened loose fittings, re-soldered connections, cranked down modulation, installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes in my linear amp... never worked right before, now it works like a champ.

A new, lowpass filter cleaned up the TV. He corrected the settings in my TNC.

He repaired the laptop that would not compute, he backed up the hard drive and got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep in the bag that he brought, and pulled out a big box... A new rig, I thought!

A new Kenwood? An Icom? A Yaesu, for me?! If he thought I'd been bad, it might be QRP!

Yes! The ultimate station! How could I deserve this, I got nervous?

Could it be all those hours that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up and in record time, very quickly. Worked 100 countries, all down on 160.

I should have been happy, it was my call he sent.

But the cards and the postage will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments, and left a card by the key: "To you, from Santa Claus, 73."

*Then he grabbed his H-T, looked me straight in the eye,
punched a code on the pad, and was gone, no good-bye.*

*I ran back to the station, and the pileup was big,
but a card from St. Nick would be worth my new rig.*

Oh, too late, for his final came over the air.

It was copied all over. It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed what a ham might expect:

"Merry Xmas to all, and to all, good DX!"



*The Directors of SARC and SEPAR
wish you all a very Happy Holiday
Season and a healthy and
prosperous New Year*

'Net' Working Internet Resources for Hams

Preparation of a Radio Telegram

This short video documents a demonstration of message handling as it once was done at the former Marconi-RCA Wireless Station, formerly known as Chatham Radio WCC, on Cape Cod.

In this video Louis Masson, a retired 30-year RCA wireman, demonstrates the long lost art of preparing a inbound radio telegram at the Chatham Marconi Wireless Center.



Mr. Masson first types the transmission into the teletype perforator (on the right) to create a 5-level punched paper tape recording of the message.

The paper tape is then fed into the transmitter distributor, which in turn

automatically sends the message to a teletype (on the left) where the message is printed on a continuous strip of paper. The paper has adhesive on one side of it so that it can be "gummed" to the radio telegram form (shown with the Marconigram header.)

Anyone interested wireless technology and the history of communication should visit the Chatham Marconi Wireless Center in Chatham.

Watching this historic equipment come back to life is, in many ways, like watching a steam engine come down a long dormant stretch of track.

The dedicated individuals of the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center have lovingly brought an important piece of our technological past back to life for all to see.

The Chatham Marconi Wireless Center can be found on-line on this link:

<http://www.chathammarconi.org/>

Call Sign Searches

A new web site URL from Industry Canada for call sign searches, and other services for Accredited Examiners

Examiners can now process applications on line and it goes directly to the database! The new Ham can get a call sign the very day it is entered in the exam results!

Go to www.ic.gc.ca/callsign or <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/025.nsf/eng/home> to take you to the new site.

Item Wanted

Dave Thomson VA7THO is looking for a VHF (and preferably dual-band VHF/UHF) antenna like a J-Pole or equivalent, suitable for use in an apartment.

Contact Dave at thomson123@shaw.ca or 604-531-01426 if you have one that you can spare.

Burnaby Amateur Radio Club Swap Meet

Date: February 26, 2012; Sellers: 9:00am, General Admission: 10:00am. Sullivan Community Center, 152nd street and 64th Avenue. Surrey, BC

This year's venue is a little smaller and less expensive than in past years so we're passing the savings along to our table vendors and attendees.

Tables are \$20.00 each (includes admission fee for one seller, maximum of 2 people per table). General Admission is \$5.00 (children 12 and under free). This will be the same great event that you have enjoyed in the past with a raffle, 50/50 draw, and door prizes.



Coffee, tea, donuts and hot dogs will be available for purchase. For tables, please contact Lou Beaubien VE7CGE loubeaubien@telus.net or club@ve7bar.net.

All tables need to be pre-paid. We will have vendor payments available thru Pay Pal shortly. Please contact Lou to make arrangements for the table prior to making the PayPal payment.

Please see our website, ve7bar.org for more details as they become available.

Please note that there are no easy access to washrooms for persons unable to climb a few stairs. Anyone with disability issues should contact us so we can determine if we can accommodate them.

QRM ...from the Editor's desk



*Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share?
Something to sell or something you are looking for?
Email it to ve7ti@separis.net for inclusion in this column.*

The Annual Santa Claus Parade in New Westminster

Ken VE7BC is looking for about 25 operators for this one on Saturday, December 3, starting communications at 14:00 or a little later depending on assignment, the parade rolls at 16:00 and is all done within a couple hours.

Positions will include the assembly area, with the judging, PA announcers, police, first aid, BCAS, dispersal etc. Several operators will be assigned to provide communications at the intersections and traffic barricades along the parade route. These are good spots for operators who would like to bring their families along to enjoy the parade.

More information on the parade can be found on the Hyack Festival website at www.hyack.bc.ca.

The only requirement is a handheld and hopefully a spare battery. New hams are always welcome. We can certainly buddy up any brand new hams with an experienced operator.

Please contact Ken if you are interested at 604-816-5775 or via kenjclarke@shaw.ca

VA3XPR Repeater Baofeng UV-3R HT Giveaway

Worried that Santa's not going to deliver a new radio under the tree this year? Well fear not, the VA3XPR Repeater, the new voice of downtown Toronto, is giving away a brand new Baofeng UV-3R dual band HT! All you have to do to win this cool compact HT is:

1. Like the VA3XPR Repeater on Facebook;
2. Leave a comment on the VA3XPR Repeater Facebook page with your call sign and why you want a new Baofeng UV-3R HT;
3. Log as many contacts on the VA3XPR Repeater as you can between 12:00am EST November 15, 2011 and

11:59pm EST December 31, 2011, via the local repeater, Echolink or IRLP. Each contact will be worth 1 point, however contacts made with the special event station VA3XFT on December 10, 2011 between 9am - 12pm EST will be worth 20 points each.

4. Send the completed log file to the email address for the VA3XPR Repeater found on QRZ by 11:59pm EST January 8, 2012;
5. The winner will be announced on the VA3XPR Repeater Facebook page on January 22, 2012.

It's that easy! The contest is open to any licensed amateur radio operator that is 18 years of age or older worldwide. The winner will be notified directly via email, so please make sure you include your email address with you log submission. Have fun and good luck!

~ Don, VA3XPR Repeater Sponsor

US Ham Radio Licenses At An All-time High

The newest trend in American communication isn't another smartphone from Apple or Google but one of the elder statesmen of communication: Ham radio licenses are at an all time high, with over 700,000 licenses in the United States, according to the FCC.

Ham radio first took the nation by storm nearly a hundred years ago. Last month the FCC logged 700,314 licenses, with nearly 40,000 new ones in the last five years. Compare that with 2005 when only 662,600 people hammed it up and you'll see why the ARRL is calling it a "golden age."

Read more: www.foxnews.com

What about Canada you ask? See the table on the right for BC licenses currently on the RAC database.



B.C.	14,422
VE7	10,000
VA7	4,422
Vancouver	1,335
Victoria	1,184
Surrey	824
Richmond	513
North Van	425
Coquitlam	378
Langley	344
Delta	315
Nanaimo	284
Abbotsford	274
Maple Ridge	247
Pt. Coquitlam	215
Chilliwack	183
West Van	159
Mission	134
Pr. Moody	73
White Rock	59
Squamish	38
Hope	25
Whistler	9
Pemberton	4



QRT John Brodie VA7XB

A HOME-BREW TALE

Early in the new year, SARC will be rolling out a program to encourage members to acquire and build kits in furtherance of their knowledge of electronic circuits and their application to ham radio. Fifty years ago, amateurs built much of their own equipment because 1) what was needed was not available commercially, 2) they could construct very cheaply using items found in their “junk box”, or 3) they just liked the challenge of building and the satisfaction of creating something useful. I was in the last category when, as a high school student in 1960, I first got my licence and was trying to get on the air with the limited income from my paper route. I and my high school ham friends did build many pieces of equipment, the most popular being power supplies and transmitters, because they were relatively simple. This was the vacuum tube era, naturally. In order to get our ham license, we were required to manually draw the schematics for about 10 (as I recall) pieces of equipment, including a complete receiver, transmitter, power supply, frequency measuring device, over-modulation indicator, etc. Then we had to explain to the Radio Inspector the purpose of each and every resistor, capacitor, coil and tube in the circuit. There was no glossing over the details... you were expected to know, and failure was rewarded with a stern rebuke by Nelson Smith, the infamous Radio Inspector, and a return visit for retesting. The point of it was that you could not expect to be a complete and responsible amateur radio operator if you did not know these things. You certainly couldn't repair equipment without understanding how it worked. So I spent many happy hours in my parent's basement, soldering up bits of this and that, and ultimately getting most of it to work. I have often made the comment that in those days I enjoyed building more than operating. There are not so many opportunities to match the quality of commercial equipment nowadays, but every month's QST and QEX are filled with built-it projects. For the beginner, kits are the way to go as you don't have to drive all over town, or send away to multiple mail order suppliers to find rare parts. Besides that, unless you screw up in a big way, they usually work.

Along came the late 1960s when education, marriage and a family took me away from ham radio. Then in the mid 1970s when my children were young and I was trying to get back into the hobby, I decided that I would attempt to create a 100% home-built station. Mostly using designs from QST and the Radio Amateur's Handbook, I first built an electronic keyer, then an antenna matching device (the “Ultimate Transmatch” seen at Field Day), working up to a 5-band HF receiver, then finally a 100 watt transmitter. My family was living in Trail at the time, and didn't know any ham radio operators who might help me with my projects. The receiver worked by beating the incoming signal from the RF amplifier with the product of a 5.0 -5.5 MHz signal from the VFO and a secondary oscillator (one

for each band) to create a 9.0 MHz intermediate frequency which was then passed through a crystal filter and product detector to create the audio. When the receiver was completed, I was disappointed to find that I could only hear static. I had no test equipment to find out what was the trouble, but I suspected the VFO was off-frequency. So I found a circuit for a crystal-controlled dip meter and built it.



A dip meter is simply an oscillator that can be coupled to a tuned circuit, and by the dip in current indicates the resonant frequency of the tuned circuit. Since a dip meter is inherently inaccurate, I was able to use the receiver crystals with the meter to give accurate calibration points to generate a curve of frequency vs dial indication. To cover the frequency range of interest, I wound a series of plug-in

coils. Sure enough, with this device I found the VFO was tuning low, and the remedy was simple... substituting a smaller C capacitor in the L-C circuit to raise the resonant frequency. By experimentation, I was able to move the VFO to the correct frequency and thereafter the receiver worked just fine. I still have that dip meter and while it sat idle for 20 or more years without use, the battery had sufficient life that I could get a dip on the meter when I tried it out recently.

The photo above shows what the instrument looks like. The other photos are of my two sons at a young age, with the home-made receiver in the background. Alas, neither of the boys showed any interest in ham radio as they got older, but they were interested in girls, I noticed.



Cape Verde comin' in on 10 meters, says Craig (age 4) as he tunes his Dad's home-brew receiver



Hey Dad, this QRM is hurtin' my ears, says Mark (age 2), thinking that maybe ham radio is not for him!

What else can a dip meter do for you? Well, it can tell you the resonant frequency of your antenna or confirm that the trap in your multi-band antenna is functioning at its intended frequency. It can also identify the value of an unknown capacitor or inductor, or serve as a signal source when diagnosing receiver problems.

Read more about [dippers](#). Do you want to [build one](#)? Click the hyperlink for a modern dipper kit, plus many other kits of interest to amateurs. Alternatively, you can often find a used dipper for sale at swap meets for \$25 or so.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year.